

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 337
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 175th birthday of Elizabeth Jane Gentry Hendley, "Mother of the Great Hendley Family".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember those august matriarchs who served as the very foundation of their respective families, and who through their hard work and dedication contributed significantly to Tennessee's panoramic; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jane Gentry, daughter of Robert Gentry of Jefferson County (formerly in North Carolina), Tennessee, and the former Nancy Harris of Virginia, was born December 14, 1817, in the Mine Lick Creek area of Jackson County, now Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jane Gentry grew to adulthood in Jackson County before marrying Aden (Andrew M.) Sutton Hendley of Georgia on June 18, 1835, at the Hebron United Baptist Church of Christ (later known as Spring Creek and Twelve Corners) of Jackson County; and

WHEREAS, of this union were born twelve children: Nancy C. (Shanks), Julia Ann (Lucus, Wallace), Lucretia M. (Wells), Mary Jane (Vaughn), Americus Frances (Tinsley), Mr. William Meredith Hendley, Martha L. (Maxwell), Mr. Francis Marion Hendley, Sarah A. (Jones), Paralee E. (Herren), Matilda E. (Vaughn) and Miss Margaret E. Hendley; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jane Gentry Hendley thus became the “Mother of the Great Hendley Family of Tennessee” that today exists as The Hendley Family Association, Inc., of Tennessee established in 1975, and chartered in Tennessee in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jane Gentry Hendley passed away on January 29, 1897, six years, 3 months and 3 weeks after her husband, Aden, who died on October 6th, 1890; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jane Gentry Hendley’s epitaph on her gravestone at Smellage Cemetery on Hopewell Road near Boma, Putnam County, reads as follows: “SHE WAS A KIND AND AFFECTIONATE WIFE, A FOND MOTHER, AND A FRIEND TO ALL”; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commemorate the 175th birthday of Elizabeth Jane Gentry Hendley “Mother of the Great Hendley Family of Tennessee”, reflecting fondly upon her bountiful life of purpose and commitment to family and the proud, illustrious heritage of the Hendley family that she made possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That three enrolled copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to William H. Hendley, President of The Hendley Family Association, Inc., of Tennessee.